

Bereshit – The Class
A close text study with Rabbi Jan Uhrbach
Thursday mornings – 11:00am (new time)
July and August

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Tomorrow evening  
**CSH Community Shabbat Dinner**  
Sponsored by  
**Joyce Silver and Carol Steinberg**  
following Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6:30pm  
at the home of Rabbi Jan Uhrbach  
258 Redwood Road (directions below)

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FINDING OUR WAY TO THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

A Day of Learning about Our Tradition and Ourselves
in Preparation for the Yamim Noraim
with Rabbi Edward Feld and author Merle Feld

Sunday August 8

WHY WORDS?

Teaching and Discussion with Rabbi Edward Feld, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Monday August 9

DISCOVERING TODAY'S VOICES, REDISCOVERING TRADITIONAL TEXTS

Study with Rabbi Edward Feld, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

PREPARING FOR AWE: HIGH HOLY DAY WARM-UPS AND STRETCHES

A Personal Writing Workshop with Merle Feld, 1:15 pm - 3:15 pm

Please RSVP as soon as possible, and no later than July 26

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**Friday evening August 13th & Shabbat morning August 14th**

*We welcome back*

**Dr. Zvi Gitelman**  
Preston R. Tisch Professor of Judaic Studies  
at the University of Michigan

who will enlighten us on (among other things)

**ISRAEL'S RUSSIAN REVOLUTION:**

How the largest aliyah in history -- one out of five Israelis is now from Russia --has influenced the nature of Israeli culture, politics (and the strength of the right wing), and the question of "Who is a Jew"?

Friday July 23, 2010      **Candle Lighting 7:58pm**  
**Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6:30pm**  
at the home of Rabbi Jan Uhrbach  
258 Redwood Road (directions below)

**Shabbat Morning 9:30**  
Shabbat Nachamu  
Old Whalers Church  
Union Street, Sag Harbor  
Kiddush sponsored by Sheila and Norman Bleckner

This week's Torah reading: **Vaetchanan**  
Annual (Deut. 3:23-7:11): Etz Hayim p. 1005  
Triennial (Deut. 5:1-7:11 OR 6:4-7:11): Etz Hayim p. 1015 OR 1024  
Haftarah (Isaiah 40:1-26): Etz Hayim p. 1033

### **Musings on Vaetchanan**

"And I pleaded" Wings of Prayer [Deuteronomy 3:23 – 7:11]

Comfort, comfort My crushed, My desolate people; bring them into the room beyond comfort, where I am prayer and I am pain.

Listen Israel as My servant Moses leads you to My crying rooms; hear him plead, Oh Lord open my lips ...Lord let me cross over... let my teachings fall like rain...

Generation to generation...Ears that heard God speak from fire now hear His rain fall gently on their future fields. Eyes that saw the mountain burn to the heart of heaven see the goodly land across the river; but no one hears the breaking of a heart; they do not see the face that once saw face to Face look back in wonder and ahead in anguish.

This man Moses, born to be apart, pleading for his people. I will fill the world with prayer, said he upon that other peak, before I let You flood it with Your pain. You will show mercy upon whom You show mercy, and I shall never know Your ways, yet will I not choose the cloistered Eden-comfort of a drunken Noah, nor will I let You make of me a great nation. Blot me from the book You have written. I will forge a different comfort. If they would but listen I would teach them the comfort of carving You a highway through the desert stone, of loving You with all their heart and being and might in pain and sickness, in longing and defeat...

O that I had wings like a dove, I would fly away, and be at rest, then I would wander off, I would lodge in the wilderness...I would haste me to a shelter from the stormy wind and tempest...

Enough, said the Lord to His friend Moses. Let your longing be enough; let it hover here upon the

blindness of My dark night. Let your longing sing My praise from here, My wounded dove, until your people learn to carry you across upon the eagle's wings of prayer.

from *In the Cleft of the Rock: Writings on the Five Books of Moses*, by Deborah Masel  
<http://www.limmud.org/publications/tasteoflimmud/5769/Vaetchanan/>



Relationships often involve complicated human dynamics. Perhaps the most complicated is the one we have with our Creator. This very fact is reflected in a most interesting place in this week's Torah reading. For the second time in the Torah, we read the Ten Commandments, known in Hebrew as the Aseret HaDibrot. One of the famous questions asked about the Ten Commandments is: Why is it called Aseret HaDibrot, which really means Ten Sayings, and not Asara Maamarot, which means Ten Comments?

Why does the Mishnah in Pirkei Avot (5:1) describe God creating the world with the expression Ten Maamarot and not Ten Dibrot? Aren't the Ten Commandments on par with the creation of the world? Aren't they as important as the creation story? If they are, then they should have been called Ten Maamarot, reflecting this fact.

In a brilliant analysis, one commentator suggested that the word **amira** in the Bible mandates no relationship between the one who is speaking and the one who is being spoken to. The other Hebrew word for conversation, *vayidaber*, however, is always predicated on a relationship between speaker and listener. This explains why when the word *vayidaber* is used in the Torah it is followed by the Hebrew words *im* or *et*, which mean "with." This does not exist when the Torah uses *vayomer*. In addition, whenever there are biblical soliloquies, they are introduced with the word *vayomer*, because there is no relationship being forged between the speaker and others. The biblical speaker is speaking only to himself.

It is with this background that we can appreciate why the Mishnah Pirkei Avot states that God created the world with Ten Maamarot and not Ten Dibrot. At that point in creation, since man was yet to be created, the Bible used the expression of *vayomer*. But when God revealed the Torah and gave the Jewish people the Ten Commandments, God addressed us with the expression of *dibrot* because God wanted a relationship with us. He didn't just speak; He wanted us to listen.

[http://www.jewishjournal.com/torah\\_portion/article/heavenly\\_conversation\\_parashat\\_vaetchanan\\_deuteronomy\\_323-711\\_20100720/](http://www.jewishjournal.com/torah_portion/article/heavenly_conversation_parashat_vaetchanan_deuteronomy_323-711_20100720/)



## **Coming Up Quickly**

Rosh Hashanah is just after Labor Day this year. Please let us know if you plan to be spending the High Holydays with CSH this year by **returning the High Holyday Form** that was sent out by email last week.

If you did not receive the mailing and would like to: please respond to this update and let us know.

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Yom Huledet Sameach

Ira Schwarz
Carol Steinberg
Lorraine Schottnefeld

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**Donations**

Sarah Engel in memory of Marion Gotbetter

**Quote of the Week**

The ear is the only true writer and the only true reader. *Robert Frost*

**Shabbat shalom.**

Stacy

Stacy Menzer  
President  
The Conservative Synagogue  
Of the Hamptons  
PO Box 1800  
East Hampton, NY 11937  
631 725 8188  
[www.synagoguehamptons.org](http://www.synagoguehamptons.org)

Directions to  
Home of Rabbi Jan Uhrbach  
258 Redwood Road

*From East Hampton and points east (via Route 114)*

Take Route 114 north to Sag Harbor. Turn left on Union Street (there is a restaurant on the near left corner called Cilantro's). Turn left onto Main Street. Turn right onto Glover Street (directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

*From Sagaponack or Wainscott (via Sagg-Main)*

Take either Sag Harbor Tpke or Sagg-Main Street into Sag Harbor. Turn left on Union Street. Take the first left onto Main Street. Turn right onto Glover Street (directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

*From Bridghampton (via Bridge-Sagg Pike)*

Take the Sag Harbor Tpke into Sag Harbor. Turn left onto Glover Street (just past Canio's Bookstore and directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

*From Watermill (via Scuttle Hole Road)*

From 27, turn left onto Scuttle Hole Road. Stay on Scuttle Hole Road until the end, then turn left onto the Sag Harbor Turnpike. Take the Sag Harbor Turnpike all the way into Sag Harbor, and turn left onto Glover Street (just past Canio's Bookstore and directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

*From Southampton, West Hampton, and points west*

Take 27 (Montauk Hwy) east. Turn left at the large green sign pointing toward Sag Harbor (just past East End Clambakes). This will be Sandy Hollow Road. Turn left at the first light onto North Sea Road. Take North Sea Road to Noyack Road – turn right onto Noyack Road, following the signs to Sag Harbor. Turn left onto Long Beach Hwy. Turn right onto South Ferry Road at the traffic circle (sign will say Route 114 South). Cross the bridge into Sag Harbor. Turn right onto Main Street (opposite the windmill and the wharf). Go straight along Main Street past the stores. Toward the end of the stores there is a fork in the road (at the monument and Allen Schneider realty); bear right to stay on Main Street. Turn right onto Glover Street (directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

*From Southampton, West Hampton, and points west - Alternate*

Take 27 (Montauk Hwy) east. Turn left at the large green sign pointing toward Sag Harbor (just past East End Clambakes). This will be Sandy Hollow Road. Turn left at the first light onto North Sea Road. Take North Sea Road for a very short distance, and make a right onto North Sea Mecox Road. Take that to the end, then turn left on Seven Ponds Road. At the end of Seven Ponds there is a stop sign, and fork in the road. Take the middle path (always a good idea anyway), onto Lower Seven Ponds Road. Make a left at the end of the road onto Head of the Pond Road, and bear right at the next fork, staying on Head of the Pond. Stay on Head of the Pond Road until the end (it will curve and turn a fair amount, then take a left turn on Scuttle Hole Road. Stay on Scuttle Hole Road until the end, and turn left onto the Sag Harbor Turnpike. Take the Sag Harbor Turnpike all the way into Sag Harbor, and turn left onto Glover Street (just past Canio's Bookstore and directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

**PARKING**

You may park in the driveway, or on the street, but please be particularly careful of the neighbors' driveways. There is also a small public parking area on the right side of Redwood Road, just past the marina and directly opposite the left turn onto Cove Road. It is then a very short walk to the house.